

The principal features of the Democratic County Convention, yesterday, were what had been conceded in advance, the endorsement of Judge Collier and the nomination of R. H. Johnston for District Attorney. The fact that this action has been a foregone conclusion for some time does not preclude the recognition of its significance when formally taken.

In this action upon the nominations for Judge and District Attorney the Democratic organization has lifted itself above the level of partisanship and placed itself upon the plane of integrity, cleanness and ability in the administration of justice.

It has shown equal unanimity in endorsing the re-election of a Republican Judge who has demonstrated the possession of those qualities, and the nomination of a Democrat for District Attorney, whose private character is clean and whose public record is not unmarked by scandal. The readiness to disregard party lines for the sake of supporting the best qualities in the machinery of justice is not usual in political conventions; and while the party machinery of the Republicans can hardly be expected to meet the Democrats half way, it is more than likely that a great many of the Republicans will do so, in their individual rather than party capacity.

It is certainly an encouraging sign when even a minority party celebrates party lines in its support of the nominees for the courts. The example is not likely to be lost on the majority of the public.

The first day of the G. A. R. reunion at Milwaukee, notwithstanding the unfavorable indications which have preceded its assembling, appears from the reports to have been largely attended and enthusiastic. The parade, reunions and campfires, which comprised the proceedings, were imposing, and indicated at once the warmth with which the old soldiers greeted each other and the public appreciation and honors paid to the veterans. The first day has been given over to parades, enthusiasm and sentiment; the business meetings, which will follow, will be more important as showing the attitude of the Grand Army on the pending questions in which it is interested. Conservatism and moderation on these issues will be as beneficial for the Grand Army as for the rest of the nation.

The news that King Leopold, of Belgium, has got so tired of the expensive sovereignty of the Congo Free State, that he is ready to throw it aside, or turn it over to anyone who wants it, is a little surprising if not at variance with antecedent knowledge. Inasmuch as Leopold has just concluded arrangements for building a railroad that bids fair to make the Congo organization self-sustaining, and as England and Germany, if not France, Italy and Portugal, are ready to snap up that very large sized morsel in the way of an African colony, it is safe to conclude that if the Belgian King wished to rid himself of that great river, he would not need to advertise his desire in the cable dispatches.

However, the statement suggests one point that may, perhaps, prove a new development in the line of royal acquisitions. That eminent American railroad king, Mr. C. P. Huntington, has of late shown a disposition to acquire extensions in the Eastern hemisphere. He reported to have bought a German Prince for his daughter and has made a liberal subscription to the Congo railroad. If King Leopold is in need of cash, why should not Mr. Huntington buy up the Congo State and be king of the Congo regions, as well as of the Chesapeake and Ohio and Southern Pacific railways?

The article on "The Transformation of New England" in the last number of the *Forum* is possibly pessimistic with regard to the displacement of the American element in New England by the French Canadian. Yet it must be remembered that the overflow from Canada of a population which is so persistent in refusing to assimilate with this country, and in retaining its foreign language and foreign customs, is a subject which can only be viewed with grave apprehensions. An indication of the position of the French Canadians in this country is afforded by a call for a convention of the members of that race residing in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. The stated object of the convention is to consider the measures which are to be taken for the prevention of the assimilation of the French Canadians with the people of the United States, and the preservation and propagation of their language and customs. When such purposes are publicly avowed, it begins to be time to consider whether the United States should not take the public position that additions to its population which refuse to become an integral part of this nation are not wanted in this country.

Decidedly divergent views on the liquor legislation are cropping up in various quarters at present. One of the most noticeable is that presented by Mr. Bradley, the founder of Asbury Park, who from having been a leader among the Prohibitionists, has concluded, by reason of his own experience, that high license is more likely to be effective in checking the evils of drunkenness than prohibition can be. He bases this conviction upon the fact that even at Asbury Park he has not been able to suppress the illicit liquor traffic. Thence he arrives at the conclusion which a great many other sincere temperance men adopted long ago, that utter prohibition being impracticable strict regulation must be accepted as the best that is attainable. To offset this, we have the opinion of the *Detroit Free Press* based upon the experience of Pittsburgh with its speak-easies that high license is a failure, and that free rum is more triumphant under the system prevailing here than ever before. This will give to more Pittsburghers a new reading of the old adage about going away from home to learn the laws.

Another idea of the liquor question is that advanced by the Philadelphia *Record* in answer to Judge Agnew's recent letter arguing that there is no constitutional obstacle in the way of passing a local option law for Pennsylvania. Our Philadelphia contemporary concedes the Judge's legal authority, but opposes his conclusion on the ground that "the law utterly failed to comprehend the meaning of the great popular verdict of Pennsylvania on the 18th of June." But the fact that the *Record* concedes this verdict to forbid the enactment of local option, or the privilege of each county to establish prohibition if the people so vote, indicates that the failure to comprehend that verdict is not on the side of Judge Agnew. The vote was upon one question, simply, whether the sale and manufacture of liquor should be prohibited throughout the entire State, without regard to the settlement of local option.

The fact that one has been defeated affords no legitimate obstacle to agitation in favor of the other upon its merits. Actual prohibition is one thing; local option is an entirely distinct matter. The fact that one has been defeated affords no legitimate obstacle to agitation in favor of the other upon its merits.

The statement that the H. C. Frick Coke Company has purchased the coke trade in the West Virginia company, which gives the purchaser a total ownership of 7,000 out of the 13,000 ovens in the Connellsville region, draws renewed attention to the change that has been going on from the time when the coke industry was divided among thirty or forty different firms to the present one when it is practically divided among four or five, and the majority of the industry is owned by a single one.

Of the causes which have produced this remarkable concentration of the coke trade in the hands of a few powerful hands it is perhaps unnecessary to speak. While the operation indicates the tendency in the direction of a single control of that industry, it is a fact that the latter consummation is still a long way off. New fields to the north and south of the Connellsville district are coming into operation, and competition will still have its influence in fixing the price of that staple, as well as the wages paid in its manufacture.

It is rather suggestive to see it announced in connection with the purchase that the price of coke for the past year has been below the cost of production. As there are no commercial reasons for the prolonged sale of any staple at less than cost, that assertion contains an intimation that there may be a mutual interdependence between the sales of coke at that price and the sales of coke property.

The news that some of the Canadians are so angered over the course of England in failing to guard the coast of England in the connection with the United States for the seizure of the Canadian sealers, is a novel conviction of the long-standing expectation that Canada would separate from England and unite with this country. The separation seems nearer than ever; but it is not of a character that tends toward union with our Government.

The fact that the Canadians wish to abjure English supremacy in order to secure a greater liberty of quarreling with the United States promises a quarrel with the United States falling to quarrel with the United States in the connection it is pertinent to remark that a policy on our part which makes enemies of the Canadians could hardly be expected to pave the way to friendly incorporation of the two nations into one. Yet it is a singular fact that the element in our press and politics that talks the most of securing the annexation of Canada is exactly the one that has given the most support to the policy of irritating and antagonizing the Canadians.

The assertion of Mr. Edward Atkinson, with regard to the Philadelphia Centennial, that its principal result is in affording new ideas with regard to the position of the nation in the world, is principally valuable in showing how little comprehension Mr. Atkinson has of the result of the exposition of thirteen years ago.

The fact is that a large share of the new ideas and improvements which have been perfected during the last decade, received their primary impetus from the exposition. How largely the introduction of improvements and inventions extended into every branch of industry cannot, of course, be indicated by any newspaper interest in the United States knew that the position of improved presses, which multiplied the capability of rapid printing by an almost indefinite factor, was first illustrated there. The beginning of the electrical age and the first telephones were brought to public notice at the Centennial; and the capabilities of vast and powerful machinery, as delicate as it was colossal, were also displayed to the hundreds and thousands who visited that great show.

When surprising manufacturers make use of such exhibitions to show what can be effected in their lines of enterprise, they can hardly fail of having results beyond the power of computation. That is a good principle for the managers of our local Exposition, as well as those of the National Exposition, to bear in mind.

The remark of the Boston *Herald* concerning the presence of three ex-Confederate soldiers on the Republican ticket of Virginia, that it is only when the brigadiers are members of the Democratic party that "they appear to become obnoxious or dangerous," naturally provokes the retort that the once independent *Herald* has adopted the regulation Democratic idea that it is only when the former Confederates were Republicans that they are regarded as obnoxious to the Democratic and lost cause.

It must be conceded that Senator Macdonough's course with regard to that pension allowance has a flavor about it of the old

The principal features of the Democratic County Convention, yesterday, were what had been conceded in advance, the endorsement of Judge Collier and the nomination of R. H. Johnston for District Attorney. The fact that this action has been a foregone conclusion for some time does not preclude the recognition of its significance when formally taken.

In this action upon the nominations for Judge and District Attorney the Democratic organization has lifted itself above the level of partisanship and placed itself upon the plane of integrity, cleanness and ability in the administration of justice.

It has shown equal unanimity in endorsing the re-election of a Republican Judge who has demonstrated the possession of those qualities, and the nomination of a Democrat for District Attorney, whose private character is clean and whose public record is not unmarked by scandal. The readiness to disregard party lines for the sake of supporting the best qualities in the machinery of justice is not usual in political conventions; and while the party machinery of the Republicans can hardly be expected to meet the Democrats half way, it is more than likely that a great many of the Republicans will do so, in their individual rather than party capacity.

It is certainly an encouraging sign when even a minority party celebrates party lines in its support of the nominees for the courts. The example is not likely to be lost on the majority of the public.

The first day of the G. A. R. reunion at Milwaukee, notwithstanding the unfavorable indications which have preceded its assembling, appears from the reports to have been largely attended and enthusiastic. The parade, reunions and campfires, which comprised the proceedings, were imposing, and indicated at once the warmth with which the old soldiers greeted each other and the public appreciation and honors paid to the veterans. The first day has been given over to parades, enthusiasm and sentiment; the business meetings, which will follow, will be more important as showing the attitude of the Grand Army on the pending questions in which it is interested. Conservatism and moderation on these issues will be as beneficial for the Grand Army as for the rest of the nation.

The news that King Leopold, of Belgium, has got so tired of the expensive sovereignty of the Congo Free State, that he is ready to throw it aside, or turn it over to anyone who wants it, is a little surprising if not at variance with antecedent knowledge. Inasmuch as Leopold has just concluded arrangements for building a railroad that bids fair to make the Congo organization self-sustaining, and as England and Germany, if not France, Italy and Portugal, are ready to snap up that very large sized morsel in the way of an African colony, it is safe to conclude that if the Belgian King wished to rid himself of that great river, he would not need to advertise his desire in the cable dispatches.

However, the statement suggests one point that may, perhaps, prove a new development in the line of royal acquisitions. That eminent American railroad king, Mr. C. P. Huntington, has of late shown a disposition to acquire extensions in the Eastern hemisphere. He reported to have bought a German Prince for his daughter and has made a liberal subscription to the Congo railroad. If King Leopold is in need of cash, why should not Mr. Huntington buy up the Congo State and be king of the Congo regions, as well as of the Chesapeake and Ohio and Southern Pacific railways?

The article on "The Transformation of New England" in the last number of the *Forum* is possibly pessimistic with regard to the displacement of the American element in New England by the French Canadian. Yet it must be remembered that the overflow from Canada of a population which is so persistent in refusing to assimilate with this country, and in retaining its foreign language and foreign customs, is a subject which can only be viewed with grave apprehensions. An indication of the position of the French Canadians in this country is afforded by a call for a convention of the members of that race residing in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. The stated object of the convention is to consider the measures which are to be taken for the prevention of the assimilation of the French Canadians with the people of the United States, and the preservation and propagation of their language and customs. When such purposes are publicly avowed, it begins to be time to consider whether the United States should not take the public position that additions to its population which refuse to become an integral part of this nation are not wanted in this country.

Decidedly divergent views on the liquor legislation are cropping up in various quarters at present. One of the most noticeable is that presented by Mr. Bradley, the founder of Asbury Park, who from having been a leader among the Prohibitionists, has concluded, by reason of his own experience, that high license is more likely to be effective in checking the evils of drunkenness than prohibition can be. He bases this conviction upon the fact that even at Asbury Park he has not been able to suppress the illicit liquor traffic. Thence he arrives at the conclusion which a great many other sincere temperance men adopted long ago, that utter prohibition being impracticable strict regulation must be accepted as the best that is attainable. To offset this, we have the opinion of the *Detroit Free Press* based upon the experience of Pittsburgh with its speak-easies that high license is a failure, and that free rum is more triumphant under the system prevailing here than ever before. This will give to more Pittsburghers a new reading of the old adage about going away from home to learn the laws.

Another idea of the liquor question is that advanced by the Philadelphia *Record* in answer to Judge Agnew's recent letter arguing that there is no constitutional obstacle in the way of passing a local option law for Pennsylvania. Our Philadelphia contemporary concedes the Judge's legal authority, but opposes his conclusion on the ground that "the law utterly failed to comprehend the meaning of the great popular verdict of Pennsylvania on the 18th of June." But the fact that the *Record* concedes this verdict to forbid the enactment of local option, or the privilege of each county to establish prohibition if the people so vote, indicates that the failure to comprehend that verdict is not on the side of Judge Agnew. The vote was upon one question, simply, whether the sale and manufacture of liquor should be prohibited throughout the entire State, without regard to the settlement of local option.

The fact that one has been defeated affords no legitimate obstacle to agitation in favor of the other upon its merits. Actual prohibition is one thing; local option is an entirely distinct matter. The fact that one has been defeated affords no legitimate obstacle to agitation in favor of the other upon its merits.

The statement that the H. C. Frick Coke Company has purchased the coke trade in the West Virginia company, which gives the purchaser a total ownership of 7,000 out of the 13,000 ovens in the Connellsville region, draws renewed attention to the change that has been going on from the time when the coke industry was divided among thirty or forty different firms to the present one when it is practically divided among four or five, and the majority of the industry is owned by a single one.

Of the causes which have produced this remarkable concentration of the coke trade in the hands of a few powerful hands it is perhaps unnecessary to speak. While the operation indicates the tendency in the direction of a single control of that industry, it is a fact that the latter consummation is still a long way off. New fields to the north and south of the Connellsville district are coming into operation, and competition will still have its influence in fixing the price of that staple, as well as the wages paid in its manufacture.

It is rather suggestive to see it announced in connection with the purchase that the price of coke for the past year has been below the cost of production. As there are no commercial reasons for the prolonged sale of any staple at less than cost, that assertion contains an intimation that there may be a mutual interdependence between the sales of coke at that price and the sales of coke property.

The news that some of the Canadians are so angered over the course of England in failing to guard the coast of England in the connection with the United States for the seizure of the Canadian sealers, is a novel conviction of the long-standing expectation that Canada would separate from England and unite with this country. The separation seems nearer than ever; but it is not of a character that tends toward union with our Government.

The fact that the Canadians wish to abjure English supremacy in order to secure a greater liberty of quarreling with the United States promises a quarrel with the United States falling to quarrel with the United States in the connection it is pertinent to remark that a policy on our part which makes enemies of the Canadians could hardly be expected to pave the way to friendly incorporation of the two nations into one. Yet it is a singular fact that the element in our press and politics that talks the most of securing the annexation of Canada is exactly the one that has given the most support to the policy of irritating and antagonizing the Canadians.

The assertion of Mr. Edward Atkinson, with regard to the Philadelphia Centennial, that its principal result is in affording new ideas with regard to the position of the nation in the world, is principally valuable in showing how little comprehension Mr. Atkinson has of the result of the exposition of thirteen years ago.

The fact is that a large share of the new ideas and improvements which have been perfected during the last decade, received their primary impetus from the exposition. How largely the introduction of improvements and inventions extended into every branch of industry cannot, of course, be indicated by any newspaper interest in the United States knew that the position of improved presses, which multiplied the capability of rapid printing by an almost indefinite factor, was first illustrated there. The beginning of the electrical age and the first telephones were brought to public notice at the Centennial; and the capabilities of vast and powerful machinery, as delicate as it was colossal, were also displayed to the hundreds and thousands who visited that great show.

When surprising manufacturers make use of such exhibitions to show what can be effected in their lines of enterprise, they can hardly fail of having results beyond the power of computation. That is a good principle for the managers of our local Exposition, as well as those of the National Exposition, to bear in mind.

The remark of the Boston *Herald* concerning the presence of three ex-Confederate soldiers on the Republican ticket of Virginia, that it is only when the brigadiers are members of the Democratic party that "they appear to become obnoxious or dangerous," naturally provokes the retort that the once independent *Herald* has adopted the regulation Democratic idea that it is only when the former Confederates were Republicans that they are regarded as obnoxious to the Democratic and lost cause.

It must be conceded that Senator Macdonough's course with regard to that pension allowance has a flavor about it of the old

The principal features of the Democratic County Convention, yesterday, were what had been conceded in advance, the endorsement of Judge Collier and the nomination of R. H. Johnston for District Attorney. The fact that this action has been a foregone conclusion for some time does not preclude the recognition of its significance when formally taken.

In this action upon the nominations for Judge and District Attorney the Democratic organization has lifted itself above the level of partisanship and placed itself upon the plane of integrity, cleanness and ability in the administration of justice.

It has shown equal unanimity in endorsing the re-election of a Republican Judge who has demonstrated the possession of those qualities, and the nomination of a Democrat for District Attorney, whose private character is clean and whose public record is not unmarked by scandal. The readiness to disregard party lines for the sake of supporting the best qualities in the machinery of justice is not usual in political conventions; and while the party machinery of the Republicans can hardly be expected to meet the Democrats half way, it is more than likely that a great many of the Republicans will do so, in their individual rather than party capacity.

It is certainly an encouraging sign when even a minority party celebrates party lines in its support of the nominees for the courts. The example is not likely to be lost on the majority of the public.

The first day of the G. A. R. reunion at Milwaukee, notwithstanding the unfavorable indications which have preceded its assembling, appears from the reports to have been largely attended and enthusiastic. The parade, reunions and campfires, which comprised the proceedings, were imposing, and indicated at once the warmth with which the old soldiers greeted each other and the public appreciation and honors paid to the veterans. The first day has been given over to parades, enthusiasm and sentiment; the business meetings, which will follow, will be more important as showing the attitude of the Grand Army on the pending questions in which it is interested. Conservatism and moderation on these issues will be as beneficial for the Grand Army as for the rest of the nation.

The news that King Leopold, of Belgium, has got so tired of the expensive sovereignty of the Congo Free State, that he is ready to throw it aside, or turn it over to anyone who wants it, is a little surprising if not at variance with antecedent knowledge. Inasmuch as Leopold has just concluded arrangements for building a railroad that bids fair to make the Congo organization self-sustaining,